

Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District

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February 9, 2016

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

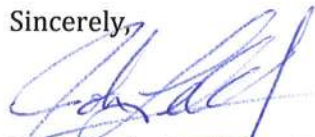
Chairman Klein,

On behalf of the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District (NWSWD) I would like to express my support of Act 148 and its continued implementation, and to emphasize our support for some sort of funding source to be identified and implemented in the form of grants and loans which would be made available to both the public and private sector. The Solid Waste Infrastructure Advisory Committee (SWIAC) spent a significant amount of time identifying the infrastructure needs for full implementation of Act 148 and potential funding sources as requested. In addition the Agency of Natural Resources sent out an independent Request for Information to the state solid waste community which identified similar needs. I have attached the NWSWD's response to this request.

The NWSWD currently meets many of the mandates set forth by Act 148 such as parallel collection of mandatory recyclables and an organics diversion program. The NWSWD collects from businesses and institutions, and also has a residential drop-off program. Through these efforts collected almost 300 tons of food waste last year. However, in order to implement a mature program with the broadest level of convenience to all District residents, improvements must be made. In speaking to small to medium size haulers in the District, they feel they are not prepared to address organics collection and require access to funds in order to meet mandated collection goals. Many of these haulers already feel marginalized to the more rural areas of our region which carry higher operational costs. They are unable to make investments in organics collection when they are unsure whether their customers would buy into the service or just compost in their back yard. Vermont Solid Waste Management Entities and the hauling community in Vermont are in need of funding in order to plan for and meet the ambitious goals laid out in Act 148. Without funding inconsistencies in infrastructure and services will occur across Vermont.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John Leddy, Executive Director

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